

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4584
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2001
IMPLEMENTATION OF PROJECTS
ANANTRAO GUDHE

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the progress of implementation of ongoing projects in Konkan, Western Maharashtra, Marathwada and Vidarbha regions in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof in terms of targets (physical and financial) set and achieved during the last two years and current year in general and Vidarbha Region in particular both for urban and rural areas;
- (c) the details of special incentives provided to accelerated promotion and growth of telecommunications, in rural and semi-urban areas in the backward region of Vidarbha in Maharashtra; and
- (d) the action plan formulated for the current year and next five years for Vidarbha Region?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

- (a) Sir, the planning of projects in Maharashtra circle is done SSA-wise. The review of the progress and implementation of the projects is also done accordingly by BSNL. DOT reviews the performance of BNL as a whole.
- (b) The physical and financial targets have been achieved during last two years in the region of Konkan, Marathwada, Western Maharashtra and Vidarbha region. Work is in progress for achieving targets this year also in all the regions. The targets and achievements for Vidarbha region are given in the Annexure.
- (c) Telephone facilities are classified as 'urban' and 'rural' and tariff are fixed accordingly. There is no separate category of semi-urban in the backward region under the existing policy. The tariff fixed for urban and concessional tariff for rural areas of the country are applicable to Vidarbha region of Maharashtra also. Following incentive are provided to accelerate the growth of telecom services in rural areas:
- i) Registration fee reduced to Rs. 500/- in rural areas.
 - ii) Free calls increased to 250 bi-monthly for rural subscribers.
 - iii) Rental charges are reduced for rural subscribers.

- (d) Plans are formulated every year based on demand projections and existing waiting list. The action plan for Vidarbha region for the current year is given below:

Sl. No.	Item	Urban	Rural	Total
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1	Switching Capacity (lines)	90759	33568	124227
2	Direct Exchange lines (lines)	91935	21565	113500
3	OFC Routes (Kms)	-	-	4817
4	Microwave Routes (Kms)	-	-	470

Annexure

Targets and Achievements of Vidarbha region

Vidarbha region 1999-2000 2000-2001 2001-2002 (till 30.11.01)

	Targets		Achiev		Targets		Achiev		Targets		Achiev	
	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
Microwave systems	778	320.05	524.1	430	91.8	827.65	470	105.8	434.35			
(in RKMs)												
OFC systems	(in RKMs)		1568	617.4	532.4	2700	285.48	853.12	4817	14.5	252.61	
Switching capacity	71900	51350	51952	133616	60010	43438	124327	170203	12364			
(lines)												
Direct Exch. Lines	58500	50647	62173	87600	60812	56017	113500	23888	12122			
Funds allocation												
(amount in Thousands of Rupees)												
	1019985		1198381		1574072							